

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /099 W

-----087352 071459Z /46

O R 071415Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7990

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: SMITH RAISES INTERNAL SETTLEMENT OPTION

REF: PRETORIA 3270,

1. SUMMARY: IAN SMITH HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS WILLING TO WORK WITH NDABANINGI SITHOLE. SMITH SAID RHODESIAN BLACKS HAD TOLD HIM THAT ONLY SITHOLE COULD BRING PEACE TO THE AREA. SMITH MAY BE SIMPLY TRYING TO REVIVE THE INTERNAL OPTION AS A BARGAINING TACTIC IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP. WHETHER HE SERIOUSLY INTENDS TO PURSUE A SOLUTION WITH SITHOLE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT VARIOUS PRESSURES MAY HAVE PUSHED HIM IN THIS DIRECTION.

END SUMMARY

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2. ON THE INITIATION OF THE NEW ROUND OF TALKS BY THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP, IAN SMITH APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPTING TO BREATHE FRESH AIR INTO THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" ALTERNATIVE. AT A JULY 6 NEWS CONFERENCE, HE REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THERE COULD BE NO HAND-OVER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT "AT ANY COST." HE THEN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH NDABANINGI

SITHOLE AS IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SITHOLE HAD HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND WANTED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IT WAS "IN MR. SITHOLE'S FAVOR THAT HE IS CONDEMNING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS." SMITH ADDED THAT BLACK RHODESIANS LIVING IN THE EASTERN BORDER REGION OF THE COUNTRY HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE SICK OF FIGHTING AND THAT ONLY ONE MAN -- SITHOLE -- COULD LEAD A MOVEMENT TO BRING PEACE TO THE AREA.

3. THE CITIZEN JULY 7 REPORTED THAT SITHOLE HAD SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM LUSAKA THAT HE INTENDED TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT RHODESIA ADDRESSING BOTH BLACK AND WHITE AUDIENCES. HE REPORTEDLY WILL RETURN TO SALISBURY ON SUNDAY, JULY 10. SITHOLE DID NOT RULE OUT A POLITICAL ALLIANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND OTHER BLACK POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING NKOMO, MUZOREWA AND SENATOR CHIRAU.

4. MEANWHILE, THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE NKOMO ANC FACTION, JOSHUA CHIMAMANO, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN SALISBURY THAT THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT WAS IN FACT ATTEMPTING TO MAKE A DEAL WITH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA. CHIMAMANO IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ARRESTED ALMOST ALL OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NKOMO ANC ORGANIZATION AND THAT MORE THAN 200 NKOMO SUPPORTERS HAD NOW BEEN PICKED UP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

5. CHIMAMANO CHARGED THE SMITH REGIME WAS ATTEMPTING TO  
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CLEAR THE FIELD FOR "BLACK PUPPET GROUPS" LED BY MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD HELD SECRET TALKS WITH CHIEF CHIRAU'S MODERATE ZUPO PARTY. CHIMAMANO ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ASSURED SITHOLE THAT HE WOULD NOT BE ARRESTED ON HIS RETURN. SPOKESMEN FOR THE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA GROUPS REPORTEDLY DENIED CHIMAMANO'S CHARGES.

6. COMMENT: ONLY A WEEK AGO THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY WAS PREPARED TO ARREST SITHOLE IF HE RETURNED. IN NOW WELCOMING SITHOLE, SMITH MAY SIMPLY BE TRYING TO REVIVE THE INTERNAL OPTION AS A BARGAINING TACTIC IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP. IT MAY BE IMPORTANT TO HIM TO TRY TO DEMONSTRATE HE HAS AN ALTERNATIVE APART FROM THE DISMAL ONE OF SIMPLY CONTINUING THE ARMED STRUGGLE. WHETHER HE SERIOUSLY INTENDS TO PURSUE A SOLUTION WITH SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IN ANY EVENT, HE MAY HAVE FELT OBLIGED TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION BY DECLINING MORALE AMONG WHITE RHODESIANS, PRESSURES FROM THE RIGHT WING AND THE ARMY (PRETORIA 3270), AND THE RECENT OAU ENDORSEMENT OF THE POPULAR FRONT WHICH HE HAS LABELLED "PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009